

1956  
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Cap 2

3-7-51  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION  
Midwest Area, Office of Information Services  
623 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago 5, Illinois  
March 6, 1951

FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

Farmers put less than half as much 1950 grain under government price support up to end of January, as they did in same period a year earlier. Total out of 1950 crop was about 352 million bushels of corn, wheat, barley, oats, rye, flaxseed, soybeans, and grain sorghums. Year earlier, total of these grains was 751 million bushels. Generally higher prices for grains is main reason why farmers are less interested in price support from Commodity Credit Corporation.

\* \* \*

Farmers loans on grains will not be extended beyond maturity dates announced earlier. Extensions have been granted in some previous years, when it was desired to keep grains, especially feed grains, on farms as long as possible. But not this year. CCC loans on grain sorghums mature March 31; those on wheat, oats, barley and rye mature on April 30. CCC explains that extension of loans might interfere with shipment of grains intended for export and cause further complications of tight transportation.

\* \* \*

USDA has sold 26.5 million pounds of dry non-fat milk solids to the government of Japan, principally for use in school lunch programs there. Japan bought 51 million pounds last summer. USDA stock now are down to about 50 million pounds.

\* \* \*

Sales of wheat under International Wheat Agreement during week of February 23-27 amounted to 1,801,000 bushels, all in form of flour. Cumulative sales to February 20 were 210,671,000 bushels, since start of 1950-51 season. USDA announced that quotas of 31 countries, and colonies had been filled, as of February 27.

\* \* \*

Meat production under Federal inspection for week ended March 3 was 292 million pounds, 7 per cent over preceding week (which included holiday) but 5 per cent below year earlier. Cattle slaughter was 8 per cent above preceding week, but 12 per cent below year earlier. Hog slaughter was up 8 per cent compared with preceding week, but 1 per cent below the 1,119,000 hogs slaughtered a year ago.

\* \* \*

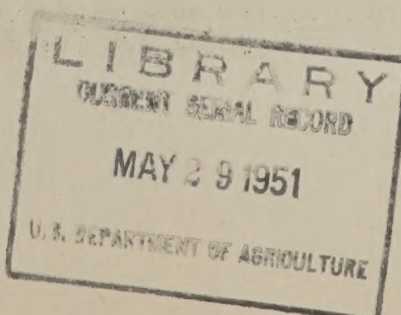
Wholesale Grocery Advisory Committee of U. S. Department of Agriculture held first meeting in Washington on March 1. Members of committee are:

Sherwin A. Hill, Pres., Lee & Cady, Detroit, Michigan  
Burt P. Flickinger, Pres., S. M. Flickinger Co., Inc., Buffalo, N.Y.  
Arthur W. Lutz, Pres., Smart & Final Co., Los Angeles, Calif.  
A. J. Bischman, Pres., Sprague Warner Division, Consolidated Grocers, Chicago, Ill.  
D. P. Gamble, Vice Pres., Pacific Gamble Robinson Co., Seattle, Wash.  
A. L. Griffin, Vice Pres., H. A. Johnson Company, Boston, Mass.  
Spencer Marr, Pres., H. A. Marr Grocery Company, Denver, Colorado  
Edward Bierhaus, Pres., E. Bierhaus & Sons, Vincennes, Indiana  
Roy A. Johnson, Pres., Roundy Peckham & Dexter Co., Milwaukee, Wis.  
Charles S. Ragland, Pres., C. B. Ragland Company, Nashville, Tenn.  
Alfred Dorman, Pres., Alfred Dorman Co., Statesboro, Ga.  
J. W. Shugart, Vice Pres., Waples-Platter Company, Ft. Worth, Texas  
J. W. Baker, Pres., Baker-Lawhom-Ford, Inc., Shreveport, La.  
Tom Good, Pres., Good Brothers Inc., Brentwood, Md.  
T. G. Castner, Operations Mgr., Eastern Cooperatives, Inc., Palisades Park, N.J.  
R. W. Gibson, Manager-Owner, Mountain Wholesale Co., Lothair, Ky.  
Robert M. Goff, Pres., Goff Wholesale Grocery, N. Little Rock, Ark.  
John P. McCune, Vice Pres., Potter-McCune Co., McKeesport, Pa.  
B. L. Davis, Vice Pres., The Russell Co., Jackson, Miss.  
Adrien J. Falk, Pres., S. & W. Fine Foods, Inc., San Francisco, Calif.  
Francis L. Whitmarsh, Pres., Francis H. Leggett & Co., New York City, N.Y.  
Ned Fleming, Pres., The Fleming Company, Topeka, Kansas  
J. A. Slocum, Pres., Slocum, Bergren Co., Minneapolis, Minn.  
J. B. Rhodes, Pres., Pacific Mercantile Co., San Francisco, Calif.

\* \* \*

USDA has recommended Federal order to regulate marketing of milk in Detroit and several adjoining cities. Producers requested order and hearings were held last summer. Order would set minimum prices to be paid to producers; equal prices to all producers for comparable quality milk. USDA will receive opinions until March 26; two thirds of producers must vote approval.

\* \* \*





Prices received and prices paid by farmers both hit new record high levels on February 15, as reported by BAE. Average of prices received by farmers went up about 4 per cent during month; prices paid went up over 2 per cent; ratio of prices received to prices paid (parity ratio) went up to 113 compared to average prices of 1910-14 used as base for calculations. Record high for ratio was 122 in October, 1946. Meat animals led farm price increases although most grains and fruits also went up slightly. Apples and many vegetable crops went down in price. Compared to pre-Korea figures, farm prices were up about 10 per cent, wholesale food prices were up about 16 per cent.

\* \* \*

Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA, reports \$2,764,804,000 invested in loans to support farm prices or in inventories on January 31. CCC took loss of \$181,026,000 in price support operations from July 1 last year to January 31.

Loans were just under \$940 million, about one-third on wheat, one-fourth on corn. Farmers still hold title to commodities under loan. Inventories were valued at \$1,825 million, with CCC holding title to 420 million bushels of corn, 256 million bushels of wheat, 527 million pounds of linseed oil, among other items. Losses were sustained principally through supporting prices on eggs, butter, potatoes, and milk.

\* \* \*

Poultry raisers intend to buy 4 per cent fewer baby chicks this year than last, according to their reports to BAE on February 1. Increases are planned for New England, South Atlantic, East South Central and Pacific states are offset by decreases in North Central and West South Central regions. Middle Atlantic and Mountain states will be about same as last year. February 1 intentions in past years have not always been indication of what poultrymen actually did; usually lower than number actually bought by end of hatching season. Much depends on price of feed.

\* \* \*

More nitrogen and potash, less phosphate fertilizer during 1950-51 season is estimated by PMA in annual survey of fertilizer situation. Covers 12 months July '50 through June '51. Nitrogen fertilizer is expected to be about 1,250,000 tons, compared with 1,030,000 tons year earlier; Phosphate supply expected to be about 1,921,000 tons compared with 2,060,000 tons year ago; potash expected to be about 1,300,000 tons compared with 1,125,000 tons during last crop year. Fertilizer supply will be important factor in getting increased production of corn, cotton, wheat, and canning vegetables hoped for in '51.

\* \* \*

USDA contracted for more than 15 million pounds of refined, edible soybean oil during week of February 26-March 2, for shipment to Yugoslavia, as emergency relief assistance. Total soybean oil purchases by USDA since last October 1 now add up to 13 million pounds of crude oil, and about 17 million pounds of refined.

\* \* \*

Secretary of Agriculture has extended cotton allocations for one month, until April 30, to allow exporters additional time for obtaining export licenses. Uncertainties stemming from price stabilization efforts interfered with exports, and prompted extension of time. Under USDA allocation, total of 3,496,000 bales of cotton may be exported during period starting last August 1, now extending to April 30.

\* \* \*

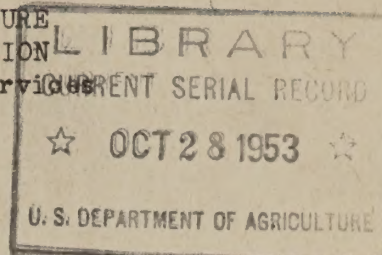
PMA has offered 5,600,000 pounds of Mexican canned beef and gravy for sale, for export only. Meat was canned before December 30, 1950, and so may not be sold in U. S., under Federal Meat Inspection regulations. Beef is packed in 20 ounce cans, 48 cans per container. Located in Oklahoma, Texas, and California. Bids accompanied by certified check or letter of credit, should be submitted to Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, Washington. Acceptances will be announced on March 12.

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 March 13, 1951



FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

BAE reports on farm conditions as of March 1, issued last week-end show 1951 season opening up about on schedule; wheat prospects improved by rains in Plains States around first of March, some winter killing in Midwest; snow needed in many areas arrived last week-end to protect wheat until growing weather starts. Plowing for cotton and other early crops started about same time as usual in South. Chickens laid eggs at record rate per bird during February, but 2 per cent fewer layers resulted in 1 per cent fewer eggs than last year; ratio between prices of eggs, chickens, and feed encouraged generous feeding. Milk production per cow was slightly lower than last February, but still the third highest on record; increased over January production more than usual in Midwest, but dropped slightly in Southeast, due to freeze killing grass. Milk production per person per day in February was 1.99 pounds, compared to 2.06 last February, and average of 2.10 during 1940-49.

Orange production is estimated at 108 million boxes, 4 per cent above last year; grapefruit production, hit by January freeze in Texas, is 13 per cent below average but 31 per cent above last year's crop.

Winter vegetable crops are estimated 15 per cent below last year. Drouth and freeze in Texas did most to cut production. Artichokes, lettuce, green peas, and shallots are principal vegetables showing larger winter production than last year. Spinach and tomatoes are only spring crops showing increases. Spring onion acreage is less than half as large as last year, with most of reduction taking place in Texas.

About half million fewer people working on farms during February than at same time a year earlier; this continues long-time trend downward, reflecting increased use of machines. Farmers not concerned over labor supply at present, but afraid shortage may appear at harvest time.

PMA of USDA has just issued a "Directory of Refrigerated Storage Warehouses in the United States." Directory lists warehouses by states and cities, giving names of operating companies, designating capacity in cooler, freezer, and sharp freeze space; indicates whether each establishment is public, private, or semi-private, and designates those which are essentially for storage of meat, apples, or fish.

U. S. imports of coffee last year dropped 14 per cent below record imports in 1949, 18.4 million bags compared to 22.1 million, but value was much greater, \$1,090 million compared with \$793 million in 1949. Pre-war (1935-39) average was 13.9 million bags valued at \$140 million. Green coffee averaged 44.7 cents per pound in 1950, 27.2 in 1949, and 7.6 pre-war. These figures reported by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of USDA.

Meat production under Federal inspection during week ended March 10 was 298 million pounds, about 2 per cent above preceding week but 1 per cent below last year. Cattle numbers were 219,000 head, slightly below last week, and 8 per cent below last year. Hog numbers, 1,153,000 head, were up 4 per cent above preceding week and about same percentage above last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter was 188,000 head compared with 192,000 preceding week and 202,000 last year.

Early lamb crop estimated about 2 per cent above last year, by BAE, reflecting increase in number of ewes on farms and ranches which began year ago. Predict larger crop of lambs coming to market before July 1. Most early lambs are produced in West and in Texas.

Hysan Products Company of Chicago paid \$400 fine in Chicago Federal Court after pleading guilty to charges of substituting mineral oil for pine oil in a disinfectant known as "Pergerm." This reduced effectiveness as a disinfectant, and violated Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, which is enforced by PMA, USDA. PMA inspectors regularly test chemical products sold for control of insects, plant diseases, rats and mice and similar purposes, to make sure they are properly labeled and come up to formulas registered by the makers.

PMA invited processors to offer total of 3 million pounds of de-germed yellow corn meal last week. Destination was not specified, delivery to Eastern or Gulf ports.



USDA this week proposed standards for grades of nonfat dry milk solids. Industry now operating on basis of tentative grades in effect since 1943. Proposed new grades not greatly different from tentative grades, but include some refinements developed during 8 years of grading experience and continued research. Opinions on proposed grades will be accepted until April 12 by Dairy Branch, PMA, USDA, Washington.

\* \* \*

Farmers and handlers of farm products have been urged by Secretary of Agriculture to do everything possible to get more use out of burlap and cotton bags. Short supply and increased demand for bagging. Handle carefully, don't throw away, protect from damage, sell bags not needed, are suggestions offered.

\* \* \*

Members of eight more industry advisory committees have been named by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, to meet at intervals with staff members of USDA on problems arising from defense activities. Total of 17 industry advisory committees are planned. Committees named in past week include those for following industries: mayonnaise and salad dressing, oil seed crushing, grain handling and marketing, margarine, refining edible oil, fruit and vegetable canning.

\* \* \*

Potato industry committee which advises USDA on research affecting the production and marketing of potatoes, recently recommended developing more research programs in which Federal, state, and industry might cooperate; special grades specifying total solids or specific gravity as an aid to potato chip and other processors; development of large collapsible containers; new small packages out of new materials; development of master containers for consumer packages; grade standards for frozen potato products.

\* \* \*

USDA has changed grades for calves and for veal carcasses, effective March 10. For live calves, Choice and Prime grades are combined and called Prime; Good grade is renamed Choice; New grade called Good is formed out of top half of Commercial grade; remainder of Commercial, Utility, and Cull grades are unchanged in name or specifications. Grades for veal carcasses are changed to correspond in general to grades for live animals, with Medium grade being changed to Commercial, and Common changed to Utility. These changes bring veal grades in line with changes made for cattle and dressed beef a few months ago.

\* \* \*

PMA has proposed changing regulations for inspection and grading of poultry; changes would make official inspection for condition and wholesomeness a requirement before ready-to-cook poultry would be graded for quality. At present, ready-to-cook poultry is graded for quality, with only non-official inspection to make sure birds are healthy and suitable for food. Poultry Branch, PMA, USDA, Washington, will receive opinions and comments for next 30 days before putting any changes into effect.

\* \* \*

Industrial Oils Advisory committee recommended this week at first meeting that restrictions be put on use of castor bean oil. Committee believes supply will be short, and military needs will increase, along with possible increases in civilian needs. Suggested restrictions be started during April-June quarter.

\* \* \*

USDA has named new spokesman to present needs of agriculture and food industries before defense agencies. Roy W. Lennartson, who has been in PMA's marketing organization becomes Chief of Office of Materials and Facilities. He succeeds L. B. Taylor, who moves to Chief of Agricultural Conservation Programs branch of PMA. A. V. McCormack leaves that spot to return to home state, Idaho, as chairman of state PMA Committee.

\* \* \*

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Midwest Area, Office of Information Services  
623 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago 5, Illinois  
March 21, 1951

FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

New dairy support prices for next 12 months starting April 1, were announced by announced by PMA last week. To support prices of manufacturing milk at 87.5 per cent of parity and butterfat at 90 per cent of parity, USDA will buy butter at 66 cents (Grade A or better), cheddar cheese at 36 cents, spray type dried skim milk at 15 cents, and roller type at 13 cents. At same time, PMA boosted sale price of its stock of dried non-fat milk solids to 15-1/2 cents for spray and 13-1/2 cents for roller type. Sales for export, 1/2 cent lower. No butter or cheese available from USDA.

New support prices represent increase in percentage of parity as well as in actual cents per pound, as means of encouraging dairy farmers to maintain high production. In recent months, dairy prices have been less attractive than those for meat animals.

\* \* \*

USDA's list of Plentiful Foods for April topped by eggs, broilers, and fryers. Egg production per hen always goes up in spring, although total production has lagged this year. Chicks sold to broiler producers in January and February indicate big supply of broilers and fryers next month. Apples and potatoes from last fall, spring lettuce from Arizona and California should be plentiful. Frozen fish, dry beans, cottage cheese, peanut butter, and honey complete Midwest list of plentiful foods for April.

\* \* \*

Potato growers will cut 1951 plantings about 15 per cent below 1950, as indicated by reports to BAE. With yields averaging up to past two years, intended acreage would produce about 353 million bushels, compared with 439 million in 1950 crop. Government purchases out of last year's crop expected to exceed 100 million bushels (73 million up to mid-March). There will be no government price support purchases out of 1951 crop.

\* \* \*

Salable stocks of potatoes on hand March 1 out of 1950 crop were smaller this year than last, but still totaled 84 million bushels in late states. Maine stocks were 11 million bushels below year ago, but those in Idaho were 4 million bushels greater. Stocks in Midwest states not much different from last March 1.

\* \* \*

U.S. will ship about 128 million bushels of wheat, coarse grains, and soybeans during March and April, most ever shipped in two-month period. Program for orderly shipment has been worked out between USDA and Defense Transport Administration. About 65 per cent of shipments represents commercial sales; rest government commitments. About 60 per cent wheat.

\* \* \*

Defense Transport Administration has ordered grain elevators at ports to store no more grain for domestic sale than they stored last year. After March 24, separate permits must be obtained for each shipment of grain stored for domestic use. Object is to speed up shipments of grain to needy countries overseas, such as Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia and India.

\* \* \*

Wheat sales under International Wheat Agreement March 7-15 were 22,047,000 bushels. USDA resumed payments on wheat exported as grain, on March 13, after limiting payments to shipments of flour during period February 13-March 13. Wheat agreement quotas of 35 countries and colonies have been filled.

\* \* \*

PMA has revised standards for extracted honey, to become effective April 2. New grade U.S. Grade C is added to "A" and "B" already in existence. U.S. Grade C covers honey intended for reprocessing. New standards cover conditions under which honey is prepared and packed; gives definitions for liquid, crystallized and partially crystallized honey. Guide to color standards has been developed by USDA and is available at nominal cost from PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

\* \* \*

PMA reports 1,145,365 tons of sugar charged against quotas during January and February, compared with 1,051,396 tons during same period last year. About half came from Cuba, one-fourth from domestic beet production.

\* \* \*

Shortage of boxcars, greatest deficit in history, prompted Secretary of Agriculture to urge farmers to build more grain storage on farms. PMA county committees will make loans of CCC funds to farmers, up to 85 per cent of cost. Loans for 80 million bushels of storage space had been made up to January 31.

\* \* \*



More food than usual moved out of coolers and freezers during February. PMA monthly cold storage report shows cooler occupancy on February 28 at 60 per cent, a drop of 5 points during month; freezer space was 76 per cent occupied, a drop of 4 points. Both dropped two percentage points more than average for month. Total food on hand amounted to four billion pounds; 2.1 billion pounds in coolers, 1.9 billion pounds in freezers. Twice as many fresh apples in storage as usual for this time of year; frozen fruits and frozen vegetable stocks at all-time high record; fewer eggs than usual going into storage; pork supplies went down when they usually go up in February; twice as much butter went out of storage as usually is withdrawn in February.

\* \* \*

How to classify concentrated milk for marketing purposes considered at public hearing in Cleveland on March 21. Cleveland milk marketing order classifies milk containing more than 8 per cent butterfat as Class II, along with cream and ice cream. But concentrated milk, a new product, is intended principally to take place of fluid milk. So Cleveland area milk producers proposed classifying it as Class I. Decision in Cleveland may set pattern governing classification of concentrated milk in other marketing areas.

\* \* \*

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended March 17 totaled 298 million pounds - same as previous week, and 1 per cent above last year.

\* \* \*

Price supports on 1951 wool production will average 90% of parity price for March 15, 1951. Dollars and cents level will be announced about April 1. Wool prices have been far above support level for more than a year.

\* \* \*

USDA Industry Advisory Committees named this week by Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan include: Public Feeding, dry edible bean and pea, wheat flour milling, rice, breakfast cereals, brewing and malt, tallow and grease producers, distilling, and corn processing. The Dairy industry committee held its first meeting with PMA Dairy chief Preston Richards. Chief subjects - how to get machinery, containers, chemicals, and manpower.

\* \* \*

USDA has announced that farmers will get benefit of higher prices on a dozen commodities stored under CCC warehouse loans. If market price is above loan value plus interest and charges when loan comes due and CCC takes over warehouse receipts (end of March or April on most items), CCC will pay difference to producers. This applies only to commodities under warehouse loans, not to those stored on farms. Grain sorghum, wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed (except in Southwest) beans, rice, soybeans, corn, and seed of Kobe lespedeza and Buffalo grass are commodities covered by new policy.

\* \* \*

PMA has told farmers with last year's hay and pasture seeds in storage under CCC loans they may extend the loans for another year after termination date of April 30. Object is to keep these seeds on farm and encourage their use in conservation programs this year or next. First time loans on these seeds have been renewed.

\* \* \*

U.S. government announced sale of 25 million pounds of dried eggs to British government this week, at average price of 44.5 cents per pound. This sale reduces CCC holdings of dried eggs to just under 42 million pounds, out of 82.7 million pounds bought in 1950. No dried eggs are being bought by CCC for price support purposes this year.

\* \* \*

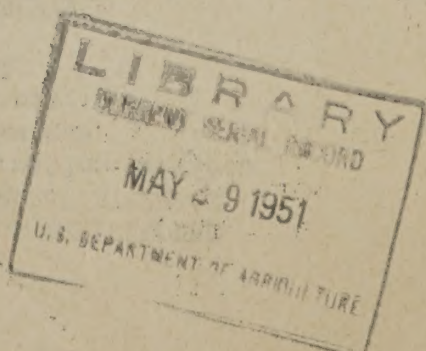
Crop prospects, based on intended plantings, indicate corn at 97 per cent of last year, wheat at 120 per cent, potatoes 80 per cent, soybeans 81 per cent. Corn is below "guide" recommended by U.S.D.A.

\* \* \*

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April 4, 1951

FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

U.S.D.A. is back in business of issuing food orders. Defense Food Order No. 1 (comparable to War Food Orders of a few years ago) issued April 4, restricts inventories and uses of castor oil. Is based on recommendations of Industrial Oils Advisory Committee recently named. Order limits inventory to 30 days supply.

\* \* \*

Gus F. Geissler became Administrator of Production and Marketing Administration in USDA on March 31, succeeding Ralph S. Trigg, who becomes special assistant to Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan. Geissler is a North Dakota farmer, long associated with USDA programs, most recently manager of Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Harold Hill, of Wisconsin, succeeds Frank Woolley, as Deputy Administrator.

\* \* \*

No more U.S. wheat and flour can be sold to foreign countries this year under the International Wheat Agreement export-subsidy plan. U.S. has already shipped its 1950-51 guaranteed quantity -- 248,164,000 bu. No more, regardless of destination, can qualify for export payments this crop year, and export rate announcements are discontinued as of now. However, exporters can expect an announcement that sales may be made for recording against 1951-52 quotas. Date of announcement undetermined, but look for it not later than August 1.

\* \* \*

USDA is worried about 1951 feed grain production. Farmer intentions to plant as of March 1 indicate a probable planting of 85 million acres of corn. Production guides call for 90 million. USDA plans a state-by-state survey in the corn belt, and County Defense Mobilization Committees will follow up with a county-by-county campaign to stimulate larger corn plantings, other grains where desirable.

\* \* \*

USDA has announced 1951 wool and mohair support prices. They will average 50.7 cents per pound for wool and 53.4 cents for mohair on a national basis. USDA bought no wool or mohair during 1950 program year because market prices ranged well above support. Same thing expected this year.

\* \* \*

Secretary Brannan has announced that 1951-crop rough rice will be supported at not less than a national average of \$4.90 per cwt. This is 90 percent of parity as of Feb. 15. As last year, price support program will be carried out through producer loans and purchase agreements.

\* \* \*

Farmers put about 364,711,172 bushels of 1950-crop wheat, barley, oats, rye, flaxseed, corn, and grain sorghums under CCC price support through February 1951. During same period last year, 1949-crop support total for same grains and oilseeds was 830,381,671 bushels. This included 378,508,432 bu. oats, 1,227,268 bu. rye, 269,312,299 bu. corn, 11,715,947 bu. flaxseed, 15,232,253 bu. soybeans, and 81,642,675 bu. grain sorghums.

\* \* \*

Feed Industry Advisory Committee has been set up by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan to advise USDA on materials and facilities needed by the trade to meet civilian and military requirements.

\* \* \*

Meat production for week ended March 31 was 289 million pounds, compared with 294 million pounds the previous week, and 289 million in comparable week last year. Cattle slaughter was below previous week and previous year, but hog slaughter of 1,153,000 head was 1 per cent above previous week and 2 per cent above year ago.

\* \* \*

BAE reports prices of most dairy products stayed about same from February 15 to March 15, but butter dropped 2 to 3 cents per pound during month. Prices received by farmers for fluid milk were 11 per cent above year earlier.

\* \* \*



Fifteen farm products were up to, or above legal minimum price at which ceilings might be set, as of March 15, in USDA's monthly report on farm prices. Cotton, cottonseed, rice, wool, mohair, soybeans, prunes, beef cattle, calves, hogs, lambs, sheep, asparagus for processing, crude pine gum, and alsike clover seed. Other farm products are below "parity," which represents purchasing power of each product equal to its purchasing power during an earlier period.

\* \* \*

Official documents in which CCC offers to buy butter, cheese, dried non fat milk solids in new price support program were issued this week by USDA. Designated as "D-A announcements," Numbers 82-85 issued by Dairy Branch, Production and Marketing Administration. CCC offers to buy Grade A butter at 66 cents pound, cheese at 34 cents, roller process dried milk at 13 cents, spray process dried milk at 15 cents per pound. First purchases of butter already have been made.

\* \* \*

Production and stocks of non-fat dry milk solids during February were lowest and prices were highest in several years. Production was 40 million pounds, 39 per cent below year ago. Condenseries bought 377 million pounds of milk, compared with 419 million pounds for February of last year and 419 million pounds average for month during previous five years.

\* \* \*

USDA has recommended Federal milk marketing order for Neosho Valley of Kansas and Missouri. Order would set minimum prices which dealers must pay to farmers. Recommendation based on public hearings last November, at which producers and dealers testified. Opinions received until April 22, by PMA Dairy Branch, Washington. Also recommended changes in milk order for Cleveland, increasing minimum price 21 cents-about same as prices paid during recent months.

\* \* \*

CCC on February 28 had investment of \$2,598 million in price support loans and inventories. Loans total \$858 million, and inventories of commodities bought to support price or surrendered by farmers after being put up by farmers as security for loans, totaled \$1,740 million. Present investment is slightly over half of investment a year ago. Loss on operations during eight months up to end of February amounted to \$231 million.

\* \* \*

CCC last week asked producers of de-fatted soya flour to submit offers up to 2.2 million pounds, for overseas shipment. Meat packers also invited to offer up to 7 million pounds of lard, for shipment to Yugoslavia. More than 12 million pounds of U. S. lard have been bought for Yugoslavia since first of January.

\* \* \*

PMA reported last week on supplies of sugar handled by retailers, wholesalers and industrial users during 1949 and 1950. Study based on reports by nearly 1300 firms, handling about half of nation's sugar supply, shows retailers started 1949 with 25,292 tons on hand, ended 1950 with 13,531 tons; wholesalers started 1949 with 43,515 tons, ended 1950 with 29,484 tons; industrial users started 1949 with 168,444 tons, ended 1950 with 194,814 tons on hand. Industrial users included in survey handled about twice as much sugar as wholesalers.

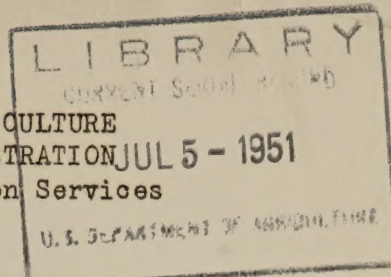
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April 11, 1951



FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

Ten per cent increase in corn acreage over last year is pointed to as one of the nation's most potent weapons against inflation by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan. Corn acreage was put under restrictions in 1950, when nation was confronted by burdensome surpluses. Defense effort and resulting boost in incomes has increased demand for meat and other livestock products; farmers will feed more corn between now and next harvest time than they harvested last fall. Following kick-off meeting in Des Moines last Saturday, Department of Agriculture agencies throughout Midwest are urging farmers to increase corn plantings by 10 per cent or more over last year. Increase of this kind will bring acreage in most states about to top figures reached during 1940's. Shortage of corn out of '51 crop would mean limit on amount of livestock that could be produced and probably would mean increases in prices of meat, eggs, poultry, milk, butter to consumer. Big acreage and good yield would ease upward pressure on prices.

\* \* \*

Winter wheat prospects on April 1 dropped 173 million bushels below estimate of December 1; current estimate of crop in BAE monthly Crop Report, 727 million bushels. Drouth and insect damage in Texas, Oklahoma and some winter kill in Midwest cut estimate.

Wheat supplies on hand estimated at 217 million bushels, compared with 199 million same date last year and 10-year average of 222 million. Corn stocks lower than last two years for April 1, oat supplies larger.

Apple crop looks to be about average, although frost at blossom time could change outlook. Washington and Oregon expect light crop this year because of heavy crop in '50; most apple varieties alternate light and heavy yields. Eastern areas generally expecting fair crop unless hit by late spring frosts. Peach prospects good in Carolinas and Georgia; trees and buds suffered damage in many other southern states.

Southern Illinois peaches labeled "near failure," small crop predicted for Michigan, resulting from severe winter.

Nation's hens laid 6,340 million eggs in March, 2 per cent below last year, but number of eggs per hen was 17, compared to 16.9 last year, and average of 16. Milk production estimated at 9,690 million pounds, 3 per cent below last year.

\* \* \*

Several personnel reassignments within FMA became effective this month. On resignation of John I. Thompson as Assistant Administrator for Marketing, Roy W. Lennartson returns to former position as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Marketing to direct activities of that office. Lennartson has been serving as director of Office of Materials and Facilities. L. B. Taylor, who has been director of Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, is returned to his former job as director of the Office of Materials and Facilities. Thomas B. Joyce, deputy director of ACP, will be acting director of that branch.

\* \* \*

USDA has raised support price for honey tenth of cent per pound from 10 to 10.1 cents. Support price for honey of limited acceptability remains at 9 cents per pound. Increase based on increase in parity index announced March 30. Agricultural Act requires that honey be supported at not less than 60 per cent of parity at start of a marketing season -- and this support level is achieved by the price increase.

\* \* \*

CCC has announced purchase of 56,423 cases of evaporated milk and 94,336 pounds of grade B butter, latter under price support operations. CCC paid 64 cents per pound for the butter, and from \$5.93 to \$5.99 per case for the milk, FOB California ports. Milk is destined for Greece. There remains about 195,000 cases of milk to be bought by CCC under this program.

\* \* \*

Extension of time allowed for filing views and comments on proposed U.S. Standards for grades of cream for use in butter making has been extended from April 15 until June 30, 1951, USDA has announced. The extension was requested by members of the dairy industry to give interested parties more time to formulate and submit written views and arguments on the proposed standards.

\* \* \*



Defense Food Order No. 1, issued by USDA on April 5, deals with castor oil, limits inventories to 30 days supply, sets limits on use, using October-December, 1950 as base period. One hundred per cent may be used for medicinal purposes, rubber products, hydraulic fluid, food products and protective coatings for food containers; 60 per cent for demulsifiers, and modified forms of castor oil, for use in leather, imitation leather, textiles, brake lining, resins and plastics; 50 per cent for paints, varnishes, and similar materials, 30 per cent for cosmetics, rubber factice, soaps; 20 per cent for all other uses.

\* \* \*

Average consumer in U.S. used about 100 pounds of sugar last year, USDA says. Bought about 56 pounds at grocery store; drank 10 pounds in beverages; ate 9 pounds in baked goods; 8 pounds in candy; 7 pounds in canned fruits, jams, jellies; 3 pounds in ice cream. These estimates of consumer use based on USDA report of distribution by primary distributors to various outlets and industries.

\* \* \*

USDA has announced a final decision affecting milk markets in Massachusetts that milk going into concentrated milk should be paid for by dealers and processors at Class I prices, same as milk put into bottles. Based on premise that concentrated milk has part of moisture removed by vacuum, rather than heat, which leaves flavor practically unchanged. This is first USDA decision reached in any milk market covering price of milk for concentrating.

\* \* \*

Potato growers and shippers in North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, northern Indiana and Iowa hold local meetings during next two weeks to select members to represent them on North Central Potato Committee, which administers Federal Marketing Order 60. Potato men themselves decide what standards of quality and size spuds must meet in order to be sent to market; USDA makes standards official and aids in enforcement of regulations. With no price support available to growers on '51 crop, marketing order is expected to be more important than before in aiding growers to get satisfactory price, by adjusting supply to demand.

\* \* \*

USDA has announced final decision to make no change in price formula for milk in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Producers had asked for greater mark-up between manufactured milk and milk for fluid use. USDA decided prices for all classes of milk had gone up enough recently to make change in pricing formula unnecessary.

\* \* \*

Forty-five lots of dry non-fat milk solids suitable for animal feed have been offered for sale by Dairy branch of PMA. Product has gone below grade or is insect infested. Most lots range 40-50 thousand pounds. Refer to DA-79, Sales Schedule No. 7. Prospective buyers to make bids.

\* \* \*

Farmers are urged by USDA to assemble worn out machinery and parts and other scrap metal and sell it to junk dealers, to provide added scrap needed for production of defense materials and essential civilian machinery. Appeal points out that half of steel in a tractor or in a tank comes from scrap metal.

\* \* \*

USDA has announced that U.S. standards for grades of canned grape juice have been revised, effective in May. Revisions cover two grades and three types -- (1) Grade A or Fancy and Grade B or Choice of Concord type; (2) any single type other than Concord; and (3) blended type. Requirements for sugar and acid have been lowered, and a new requirement for sugar-acid ratio in each grade has been added.

\* \* \*

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 April 17, 1951

FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

USDA has announced that about 1.9 million long tons (about 74 million bushels) of bulk wheat, coarse grains, and soybeans have been scheduled for commercial and government export in May. Destinations have been fixed on the basis of the relative needs of various countries. May export breakdown: wheat, 45 million bushels; coarse grains, 22 million bushels; soybeans, 5 million, 300 thousand bushels.

\* \* \*

Defense Food Order No. 2 (DFO No. 1 restricts use and inventories of oastor oil)-establishing the amount of the 1951 canned vegetable pack which must be set aside for defense use -- has been announced by Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan. Foods covered include canned asparagus, lima beans, green and wax beans, carrots, sweet corn, green peas, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, tomato catsup, and tomato paste. USDA has asked for a larger pack of these vegetables in 1951, and adequate supplies are anticipated. DFO No. 2's set-aside action is designed to spread responsibility for meeting government requirements as evenly as possible among all canners.

\* \* \*

USDA Secretary Brannan has named four fishing industry committees to advise the Department on industry problems arising from defense programs. These include the California Canned Fish Industry Advisory Committee, the East Coast and Gulf Canned Fish Industry Advisory Committee, the Canned Salmon Industry Advisory Committee, and the Fresh and Frozen Fish Industry Advisory Committee. Three midwesterners are members of the fresh and frozen fish industry group -- R. P. Fletcher, Jr., of Chicago; O. L. Carr, of Kansas City, Mo., and Roy Jensen, of Escanaba, Mich.

\* \* \*

Full cooperation of the feed industry with the nation's defense program was pledged by industry representatives at the first meeting of the Feed Industry Advisory Committee in Washington, April 12-13. The committee emphasized increased corn and feed grain production to support increased production of meats, milk and eggs. Midwestern members of the committee include Joseph Christman and Thomas W. Staley of Kansas City, and J. D. Sykes of St. Louis; Harold L. Gray of Crawfordsville, Ind., and Harry Truax of Indianapolis; and Clyde Hendrix of Clinton, and Herman Jensen of Estherville, Iowa.

\* \* \*

USDA has announced a price-support loan program for 1951-crop U.S. and Puerto Rican tobacco and minimum support levels at which various types will be supported. Support is mandatory in 1951 for most types of tobacco. Loans will be made by CCC on basis of official standard grades at specified rate for each grade. Growers of Maryland tobacco, type 32, and Pennsylvania Seedleaf, type 41, will not receive price support on their 1951 crops as they disapproved quotas in recent referenda.

\* \* \*

Eight superior new varieties of soybeans produced by Federal and State agricultural research within the past 10 years will help U.S. growers in their 1951 production. The new varieties are Lincoln, Hawkeye, Adams, Monroe, Wabash, Roanoke, Ogden, and Blackhawk. Dr. Martin G. Weiss, plant scientist for the USDA, says more than three-fourths of this year's acreage will be planted to the improved varieties.

\* \* \*

USDA says national freezer utilization dropped faster than expected during March, but that occupancy level should continue to decline as frozen fruits, butter, vegetables and poultry move from storage. On the other hand, public cooler use leveled off in March, probably marking the end of a downward cycle since cooler space use generally increases during April.

\* \* \*

Remaining stocks of CCC's upland cotton inventory are going to be sold, the USDA has announced. Current stocks include about 10 thousand bales of 1948-crop and about 80 thousand bales of 1949-crop cotton.

\* \* \*

The early lamb report from Missouri indicates good progress during March in spite of chilly, wet weather. The late breaking winter has delayed the start of pasture growth, and marketings are expected to be later than usual for this reason. Death losses are reported about average.

\* \* \*



Water supplies for irrigated and dryland grains have been reported by the USDA based on early-April surveys of mountain snows. Generally speaking, and from a national viewpoint, water supply prospects appear ample. Here is the report on some midwestern states:

All Idaho rivers but Lost River have stored mountain snow water varying from 5 to 30 percent above normal. This means above-average water supplies for irrigation and power throughout the state. Storage in some reservoirs has been lowered in anticipation of good water supplies yet to come.

In Montana, the snow pack on the upper Missouri River Basin is above average and should provide good irrigation waters in 1951. (Flood hazards in parts of the basin depend on temperatures and precipitation during the next month or so.) Upper Columbia River Basin in Montana also shows above-normal snow pack and good water supplies this season.

Snow cover in South Dakota's Black Hills has been deficient all winter, and the water supply is only fair with soil moisture conditions in irrigated areas reported dry. Belle Fourche reservoir now stores 90,000 acre-feet compared to 127,000 acre-feet for the 10 year average (1940-49). Angostura reservoir, newly-operating with a capacity of 160,000 acre-feet, had filled to 32,000 acre-feet April 1. South Dakota wheat lands shared the generally satisfactory moisture of the northern Great Plains, except that southwestern South Dakota was reported "very dry."

Soil blowing has been chiefly on western Nebraska land leveled for irrigation and consequently bare. There has also been some soil blowing on late-seeded wheat land. Subsoil was reported dry in southwestern Nebraska and also in the northwestern part of the state at the end of March, but most areas, except in the extreme northwest, got beneficial rain during the first 10 days of April.

\* \* \*

The Quad Cities -- Davenport, Rock Island, Moline and East Moline -- are now on a complete Grade-A milk standard, with non-Grade A milk no longer permitted to be sold for fluid consumption. USDA announced suspension of provisions of the Federal order regulating the handling of milk in the Quad Cities milk marketing area which provide for the pricing and pooling of non-Grade A milk received from dairy farmers. USDA pointed out that since Federal orders are intended to regulate the handling only of milk for fluid consumption, there no longer exists a need for provisions in the Quad City order relating to non-Grade A milk.

\* \* \*

Merchandizing tests in selected drug stores indicate that mechanical dispensers increase sales of reconstituted frozen concentrated orange juice. USDA's Production and Marketing Administration found that reconstituted juice would keep in good condition at least two days in mechanical dispensers, and that dispensers averaged about 18 percent more sales than other types of merchandising.

\* \* \*

PMA has announced proposed revisions in inspection and grading regulations for ready-to-cook domestic rabbits. Under the proposal, only those rabbits which have been officially inspected for condition and wholesomeness may be officially graded for quality. Present regulations -- which also apply to ready-to-cook poultry -- permit the grading of ready-to-cook rabbits which have been inspected by non-official inspectors such as processing plant employees.

\* \* \*

Fresh vegetable exports from the U.S. reached an all-time record in 1950 -- 508 million pounds. In 1949 a total of 336 million pounds were exported, and in 1946, the second highest year of record, the export total was 454 million.

\* \* \*

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FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

March estimates indicate increased production of chicks and turkey poults. Chicks produced in commercial hatcheries in March were 1 percent above March last year, and poults were up 5 percent.

\*\*\*

Farm accidents claimed nearly 18,000 lives in the nine years between 1940 and 1948, according to a BAE survey just announced. The statistics don't give details of the accidents, but indicate that most fatalities followed accidents in automobiles engaged in farm work. Tractors ranked second, with the handling of farm work stock third.

\*\*\*

Cattle on feed April 1 in the three important feeding states of Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska were 2 percent greater in number than on the same date last year. Iowa and Nebraska reported increases while Illinois has a small decrease from last April. Fed cattle marketings during January-March were nearly equal to those of a year ago.

\*\*\*

Farmers' production expenses in 1951 are expected to be 10 to 15 percent higher than in 1950 when they reached the highest level of record. First 3 months of '51, prices paid by farmers for production items, wages, taxes, and interest averages 12 percent higher than during the same months last year and 13 percent higher than in '49. Some production items are expected to be hard to get. However, record farm output probably can be attained if supplies are properly distributed.

\*\*\*

Cost of meat grading has gone up. USDA reports that federal meat grading service April 23 increased from \$3 to \$3.60 an hour. This was done so the service could continue to pay its own expenses. The meat grading service is a voluntary program offered meat packers, processors, handlers and others since 1927 to provide uniform and reliable grade standards for the trade and consumers. Under the program, beef, veal, lamb and mutton are graded by USDA experts.

\*\*\*

The Tobacco Marketing and Processing Industry Advisory Committee has held its first meeting. Gathering at Washington, committee members and USDA officials discussed industry problems arising from the defense program. Two midwesterners are members of the 33-man committee -- Martin F. Matz of Evansville, and J. S. Flagg of Toledo.

\*\*\*

Sugar distribution by primary distributors in continental U.S. for civilian and military use totaled 122,505 short tons, raw value, during the week ended April 14.

\*\*\*

USDA has issued its monthly report on the status of 1951 sugar quotas for various sugar-producing areas supplying the U. S. The report shows that the quantity of sugar charged against quotas during January-March amounted to 1,865,385 short tons, raw value, about 81,000 tons more than during the same period a year ago.

\*\*\*

USDA has called a series of meetings at the request of the poultry industry. The industry wants to informally discuss a number of things, including proposed revisions in regulations governing poultry grading and inspection. USDA has proposed that July 1 be set as the deadline for processors to comply with the minimum plant sanitation requirements -- requirements they must comply with if they wish to get official federal grading and inspection services. Present deadline is May 1, but USDA says that doesn't give processors time enough to obtain such hard-to-get items as stainless steel and machinery they'll have to have to meet requirements.

\*\*\*

PMA has estimated July-March exports of U.S. grains and grain product at 9,869,000 long tons, compared with 9,929,000 long tons during the like period in 1949-50.

\*\*\*



USDA has announced support prices for 1951-crop dry edible beans. The supports are set up by class, grade, and area, and reflect to growers an average support level of \$6.69 per hundredweight, uncleaned basis. This compares with an average support price to growers of the 1950-crop of \$6.30 per hundredweight. Price support will be available to producers through loans and purchase agreements on warehouse or farm-stored beans from the beginning of the harvest season through Jan. 31, 1952, but will be restricted to beans containing not more than 16 percent moisture. This new qualification, the USDA explains, has been found necessary for successful long term storage.

\* \* \*

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended April 21, 1951, totaled 302 million pounds, according to the USDA. This is 3 percent more than was produced the week before and 4 percent above the same week last year.

\* \* \*

A Controlled Materials Plan (CMP) has been announced by the National Production Authority, effective July 1. The plan means that allotments of definite quantities of steel, copper and aluminum will be made to defense and defense-related industries. Included among these will be manufacturers of agricultural supplies such as farm machinery, containers, pesticides, fertilizers and other such commodities. The plan will represent an integrated allotment system replacing the priorities system currently in effect.

\* \* \*

A Division of Agricultural Machinery and Supplies has been re-established in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Functioning within OFAR's International Commodities Branch, the Division will give priority to the preparation and analysis of information bearing on defense problems.

\* \* \*

The eighth consecutive billion-bushel wheat crop is in prospect for the U. S. in 1951 if growing conditions from now through harvest are at least average. However, BAE says present indications are that this year's crop will be a little smaller than the quantity of wheat that will be used domestically and exported during the 12 months beginning next July 1. Thus, carry-over stocks on July 1, 1952, probably will be smaller than the 1951 level, but they will still be well above average. The 1951 carry-over is estimated at 425 million bushels. If production is about as large as is now anticipated, prices are expected to fall below the loan rate after harvest but probably will average close to it for the 1951-52 marketing year as a whole.

\* \* \*

On recommendation of the North Central Potato Committee, counties making up geographical districts within Wisconsin and Michigan have been realigned, the USDA reports. NCPC administers Marketing Order No. 60 -- the one regulating the handling of potatoes grown in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and parts of Iowa and Indiana. The changes were made to equalize membership on the committee, USDA reports, made necessary by changes in potato acreages and grower numbers occurring during the past 10 years.

\* \* \*

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